

ABSTRACT

A method for provisioning users with resources is disclosed. The method includes the steps of establishing a set of attributes, organizational information, and user roles, and defining a plurality of resource provisioning policies based on selected attributes and user roles. The method also includes the steps of receiving attribute information, organizational information, and user role information for a particular user or resource, determining which resource access policies are applicable to the user based on the received user role information and attribute information, and provisioning the user with resources based on the applicable resource access policies. The resources to be provisioned include "hard" resources as well as "soft" resources. "Soft" resources may include e-mail and voice mail accounts, application programs, databases, files, folders, the Internet, Web pages, organizational Intranets, messages to third parties, digital certificates, the capability to purchase products over the Internet, the ability to order a corporate credit card, access to financial services providers, and the like. In addition, users may be provisioned with "hard" resources such as telephones, computers, cellular telephones, pagers, personal digital assistants, desks, chairs, file cabinets, other physical components, and the like. In addition, a user may be provisioned with resource bundles, which are resources that are comprised of other resources.

10
15
20
25
30
35
40
45
50
55
60
65
70
75
80
85
90
95
100
105
110
115
120
125
130
135
140
145
150
155
160
165
170
175
180
185
190
195
200
205
210
215
220
225
230
235
240
245
250
255
260
265
270
275
280
285
290
295
300
305
310
315
320
325
330
335
340
345
350
355
360
365
370
375
380
385
390
395
400
405
410
415
420
425
430
435
440
445
450
455
460
465
470
475
480
485
490
495
500